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May 9, 1989

Mr. Tom Lammert  
1162 South Highway 191  
Moab, Utah 84532

Dear Mr. Lammert:

Re: Site Inspection, Vanadium Queen Mine, S/037/061, San Juan County, Utah

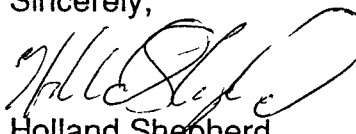
I have enclosed a copy of my inspection report with this letter for your records. I am writing you because I have some concerns after the inspection.

I have included in the report, our discussion concerning the diversion of the stream channel around the waste dump. You will need to ensure that storm runoff is kept from eroding the waste dump by diverting the stream channel during your operation. The report indicates you agreed to do this at the time of final reclamation. The channel should be temporarily diverted now and permanently at final reclamation.

I have also included a description of your mine water pond. I called the State Health Department concerning the pond, last week. I was told that the pond was not permitted. Apparently your mine water pond requires permitting even though it is not designed to discharge. The construction of such facilities does require State Health approval. Mr. David Ariotti of the Southeast District Health Department may contact you in the near future in this regard.

I have also notified the BLM that the mine is in fact on their property. You should be hearing from them soon. You probably need, only, to file a Notice of Intent with them.

Sincerely,

  
Holland Shepherd  
Reclamation Specialist

jb

Enclosure

cc: Steve McNeil, Bureau Water Pollution Control  
Sal Veentique, Bureau of Land Management,  
Grand Resource Area  
L. Braxton  
Scott Johnson

MN5/99

April 27, 1989

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Holland Shepherd, Reclamation Soils Specialist HCS

RE: Vanadium Queen Mine, Lammert Mining, S/037/061, San Juan  
County, Utah

Scott Johnson and I visited the site of the Vanadium Queen Mine this morning. We received a Notice of Intent in November, 1988 for this site from Mr. Tom Lammert, the operator. Mr. Lammert indicated that he wanted to open this site as a small mine operation. He also indicated that this operation was located on state land. Mr. Lammert indicated in his NOI that he would not be disturbing any more land than what was already disturbed there and that he would be constructing a small pond up by the vent shaft above the mine site.

The operator has upgraded the mine access road, has constructed a small mine water pond, is using the portal pad, has constructed a small storage area, and is also using a small storage pad for stockpiling ore. The total acreage of disturbance of this site, excluding the road is a little bit under 3 acres. The road is excluded because it is a through road. It is used for more than just mine access.

The operator is reusing the old waste dump for his waste material. The old waste dump had been substantially eroded by earlier rainstorm events. A gully about 15 - 20 feet deep has been created in the old waste dump. The operator is currently refilling this gully with waste material from the ongoing mine operation. Because the old stream course runs right through the middle of this waste dump, we asked the operator if he might be willing to redesign the area at final reclamation to divert the stream to a different channel so it doesn't run through the dump. We agreed with Mr. Lammert that if he did this he could continue dumping his waste material onto the old dump face.

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A potential problem area on this site exists with the newly constructed mine water pond some 75 feet from the portal. The pond has been constructed on a steep slope and is not well built. It looks like the operator rapidly dozed berms to construct the pond. There could be a problem with the berms not holding up during a large rainstorm event. The pond is not currently discharging, and hasn't discharged from my observations. I asked Mr. Lammert about pond discharge; he said it wasn't designed to do so and that it should never get to the point where it would have to discharge. I indicated to Mr. Lammert that if it did discharge, he would have to obtain a UPDES discharge permit. Because the pond has been hastily constructed, there may be a problem with embankment stability. Presently, water from the pond is either evaporating or percolating into the ground and not discharging from the pond itself in any other manner. Freeboard on the pond is approximately 3 feet. State Health should be contacted concerning construction permits for the pond.

The mine does produce some water which comes out of the front portal of a steady stream at the rate of about 5 to 7 gallons per minute. The appearance of the water looks quite dirty, it carries visible oil and sediment.

The operator maintains a vent shaft approximately 1 mile from the mine site itself, above and to the northeast of the mine site, probably located on Forest Service ground. The old vent shaft site has not been substantially redisturbed, but is operating and is utilizing an electrically powered fan.

The operator did indicate in the original Notice of Intent that the site was located on state land. My maps indicate otherwise; the site is located on BLM ground and the BLM will have to be notified of this situation. The vent shaft itself, may be located on Forest Service ground, but this was difficult to determine during our inspection.

Mr. Lammert indicated that there were no other operations active in the area of his mine. Two other sites are close by: 1) the Firefly and 2) the Blackhat. Neither operations appeared active from the road. The 1 mile road to the Blackhat was gated with a new lock.

jb  
cc: Lowell Braxton  
Scott Johnson  
MN4/112-113